



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,718	07/25/2001	Noriyuki Hori	Q65524	4071

7590 05/02/2006
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

TAYLOR, NICHOLAS R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2141

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/911,718

Applicant(s)

HORI, NORIYUKI

Examiner

Nicholas R. Taylor

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-13,15-19 and 21-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-13,15-19 and 21-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 38 and 39 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 July 1001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15-19, and 21-37 have been presented for examination and are rejected. Claims 38 and 39 are objected to.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 38 and 39 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed February 2nd, 2006, with respect to claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15-19, and 21-37 have been fully considered but they are deemed not persuasive. The arguments filed with respect to claims 36-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

4. In the remarks, applicant argued in substance that:

(A) Prior art does not teach charging the author for uploading the data structure, as in Smith the user is charged for the download and not the author for the upload.

As to point (A), Smith discloses where "the users of download client 104 may be purchasers of such content" (Smith, column 5, lines 1-12). Smith contemplates that an

Art Unit: 2141

organization that creates content could also be the end consumer. Smith "charges" the organization during the upload of the data structure based on the specified price, and can again charge them at download (Smith, column 59-64). Although the upload can result in an increase in the account balance, the prior art of Smith reads on the limitations in the claimed language.

(B) Prior art does not teach charging based on the volume of data in the electronic leaflet or during the update of the content data of the electronic leaflet.

As to point (B), the claim language in the previously presented claims pertaining to this limitation states, "...charging the educational organization according to *volume of data at new registration*" (see claims 1 and 15, emphasis added). This differs from the language in newly added claim 37, which discusses charging based on the volume of data "in the leaflet." Smith teaches charging for each data structure submitted (Smith, column 6, lines 53-55). Consequently, the volume of data structures entered will directly influence the charges tracked by the system.

(C) Prior art does not teach the educational organizations registering the content data prior to the generation of the leaflets.

As to point (C), the prior art of CollegeView specifically mentions information that is "provided by the college" (CollegeView, page 4). However, Smith goes into a more detailed teaching of registering content data prior to generation when discussing the web-based upload system interface (Smith, column 6, lines 1-6). Initially, a user logs in

Art Unit: 2141

and then identifies or "registers" the content suitable for transfer to the content management system (Smith, column 6, lines 7-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 15-19, 21-29, and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CollegeView.com (<http://web.archive.org/web/19970116182733/http://www.collegeview.com/>, hereafter referred to as "CollegeView") and Smith et al. (US Patent 6,473,749).

7. As per claims 1 and 18, CollegeView teaches an electronic leaflet system comprising:

generating by a server an electronic leaflet by making contents data related to leaflets concerning a plurality of educational organizations into electronic information through designation of various kinds of selection items set in a web site of the server; (CollegeView, page 6, sample leaflet for Acadia University, and page 5 for hyperlink selection items)

selecting from the database at least one electronic leaflet optimum for various conditions presented by a user; transmitting by the server via an internet to the user the

Art Unit: 2141

selected electronic leaflet; presenting the selected electronic leaflet on a client terminal to the user; and (CollegeView, page 2-4 for selection, page 6 for sample leaflet generation/presentation)

automatically reproducing on the client terminal the contents contained in a sub-menu prepared in advance in the selected electronic leaflet in response to a request from the user, wherein the sub-menu promotes understanding of the contents in the selected electronic leaflet, and (CollegeView, page 2-4 for selection, page 6 for sample leaflet generation/presentation)

at least one optimum electronic leaflet is selected from electronic leaflets according to various conditions provided by the user, where the user specifies the various conditions via selecting various kinds of items related to icons on the web site of said server (CollegeView, page 2-3).

However, CollegeView fails to specifically teach organizing said generated electronic leaflet into a predetermined layered structure and storing said structured electronic leaflet in a database. CollegeView also fails to teach charging the educational organization according to volume of data at new registration or updating of contents data of an electronic leaflet conducted during the generation of the leaflet. Smith teaches a database storing layered multimedia information made available for searching and retrieval (Smith, column 2, lines 54-68 and figure 4) that further charges when content is uploaded or created (Smith, column 6, lines 46-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined CollegeView and Smith to provide the content

Art Unit: 2141

management of Smith in the system of CollegeView, because doing so would enable a system for efficiently managing file content such as web-pages in a manner beneficial to users (Smith, column 2, lines 11-23).

8. As per claims 2 and 19, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein said electronic leaflet relates to at least one of lecture, school for attending-school education or correspondence course of a plurality of educational organizations (CollegeView, page 1 and page 4).

9. As per claims 4 and 21, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further comprising:

when the user accesses the web site, checking user rights for access and when the user is authorized to access the website, informing the web site of said server that the client terminal of the user is allowed to access the web site of said server (Smith, column 9, lines 10-16).

10. As per claims 5 and 22, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein said selection of the at least one optimum electronic leaflet further comprises:

receiving various conditions presented by the authorized user clicking an icon on the web site to designate each kind of selection items related to the icon in question, and (CollegeView, page 2-3)

searching said electronic leaflet data base based on the received various conditions to select at least one electronic leaflet that most closely matched the various conditions input by the user and present, for the user, the selected electronic leaflet on said client terminal of the user (CollegeView, results of searches initiated from pages 2-3).

11. As per claims 6 and 23, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein said selection of the at least one optimum electronic leaflet comprises:

receiving through the internet various conditions provided by the authorized user by clicking an icon on the web site to designate each kind of selection items related to the icon (CollegeView, page 2-3),

searching said electronic leaflet data base based on the received various conditions to select a predetermined number of electronic leaflets in a descending order of suitability for the various conditions input by the user, and presenting the selected electronic leaflets to the client terminal of the user (CollegeView, results of searches initiated from pages 2-3).

12. As per claims 7 and 24, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein the automatic reproduction of the contents of the selected electronic leaflet in the sub-menu comprises:

when the selected electronic leaflet contains as prepared contents at least one of moving picture data, voice data, and document data, automatically reproducing the

Art Unit: 2141

contents on the display of the client terminal of the user facilitating understanding of the contents prepared in the selected electronic leaflet (CollegeView, page 6, wherein the school information is a reproduction of the original server's leaflet page).

13. As per claims 8 and 25, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein said at least one of moving picture data, voice data, and document data comprise data generated by editing scenes of recorded school lessons attended by students or online classes and lecture meetings held by the education organizations (CollegeView, page 4, wherein "multimedia presentations" are available for each school).

14. As per claims 9 and 26, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein said at least one of moving picture data, voice data, and document data comprise data generated by editing previously recorded interview scenes of lecturers in charge of attendance or online classes and lecture meetings held by educational organizations (CollegeView, page 4, wherein "multimedia presentations" are available for each school).

15. As per claims 10 and 27, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein said at least one of moving picture data, voice data, and document data comprise data generated by recording and editing interview scenes of students who previously took attended school or online classes and lecture meetings held by educational

Art Unit: 2141

organizations (CollegeView, page 4, wherein "multimedia presentations" are available for each school).

16. As per claims 11 and 28, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein said at least one of moving picture data, voice data, and document data comprise data generated by editing teaching materials and transcripts of lectures presented in attending-school education correspondence courses of educational organizations (CollegeView, page 4, wherein "multimedia presentations" are available for each school).

17. As per claims 12 and 29, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein the various kinds of selection items designated by the user comprise a condition related to at least one of ability, qualification, budget, school lesson schedule and qualifying schedule for lecture in attending-school education or correspondence course of educational organizations (CollegeView, page 2-3, specifically where the Student Body Type field is a qualification).

18. As per claim 31, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further comprising charging the educational organization according to volume of data at new registration or updating of contents data of an electronic leaflet conducted during the generation of the leaflet (Smith, column 6, lines 46-54).

19. As per claims 15 and 32, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein said charging the educational organization according to the volume of data at new registration or at updating of contents data of an electronic leaflet in said electronic leaflet data base (Smith, column 6, lines 46-54).

20. As per claims 16 and 33, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein:
when the user accesses the web site of said server, checking whether the user has a right to access the electronic leaflets, and if the user has a chargeable right to access, informing for said charging of the education organization and for said selection of the at least one optimum electronic leaflet that the user is allowed to access at least one of chargeable moving picture data, chargeable voice data, and chargeable document data; (Smith, column 6, lines 54-64)

for said selection of the at least one optimum electronic leaflet, receiving said various conditions presented by the user, who is allowed to access the electronic leaflets, where said conditions are selected by clicking the icon on the web site to designate said each kind of selection items related to the icon, and (CollegeView, results of searches initiated from pages 2-3)

searching said electronic leaflet data base based on the received various conditions to select a chargeable electronic leaflet, from the chargeable electronic leaflets accumulated in the electronic leaflet data base, that most closely matches the various conditions inputted by the user and (CollegeView, results of searches initiated from pages 2-3)

presenting the user with the selected electronic leaflet via said client terminal of the user, (CollegeView, page 6) and charging the user according to conditions of access to a chargeable electronic leaflet (Smith, column 6, lines 54-64).

21. As per claims 17 and 34, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein when at least one moving picture data, voice data, and document data are sent via the internet to the user, the user is charged for the sent data (Smith, column 6, lines 54-64).

22. As per claim 35, CollegeView-Smith teaches the system further wherein the plurality of educational organizations comprise at least one of universities, preparatory schools, professional schools, cultural schools and private schools for elementary/junior high/high schools (CollegeView, page 1).

23. Claims 13 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CollegeView.com (<http://web.archive.org/web/19970116182733/http://www.collegeview.com/>, hereafter referred to as "CollegeView") and Smith et al. (US Patent 6,473,749), further in view of Fields et al. (US Patent 6,347,943).

24. As per claims 13 and 30, CollegeView-Smith teaches the above, yet fails to teach the mock examination system of claims 13 and 30.

Fields teaches a mock examination system comprising:

clicking by the authorized user a mock examination icon enabling selection of a mock examination for supporting self-determination of at least one of basic scholastic ability and aptitude, required for attending-school or online classes and lecture meetings held by educational organizations, (Fields, column 3, lines 46-59, specifically the “assessment mechanism” used in relation to a college course)

sending via the internet question data of the mock examination to the client terminal of the user; receiving answer data from the user to mark the answer data; (Fields, column 3, lines 46-59, specifically the “assessment mechanism” used in relation to a college course, and figure 8)

generating the various conditions, where the various conditions comprise current ability of the user, ability required for taking an online class or a lecture meeting, a kind of the online class or the lecture meeting recommended, and a specific name of the recommended online class or the recommended lecture meeting based on the marking result; and outputting the conditions to said automatic reproduction of the contents of the electronic leaflet (Fields, column 3, lines 46-59, specifically the “customized learning pathway” previously authored by a course content author such as a college professor, and figure 8).

25. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined CollegeView-Smith and Fields to provide a mock examination method in the system of CollegeView-Smith, because doing so would allow each user to select a customized course of instruction based on assessment of each user's knowledgeability of a particular topic (Fields, column 1, lines 6-10).

26. Claims 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CollegeView and Smith et al. (US Patent 6,473,749), further in view of Ferguson et al. (US Patent 5,819,092).

27. CollegeView-Smith teaches the above, yet fails to teach wherein the charging unit charges the educational organization at updating of the contents data of the electronic leaflet previously generated by the electronic leaflet generation unit.

Ferguson teaches charging for updating the contents of a multimedia document and creating a document by volume of data in the document (Ferguson, column 29, line 34 to column 30, line 10; column 31, lines 13-17; column 31, line 60 to column 32, line 5; column 32, lines 15-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined CollegeView-Smith and Ferguson to provide the charging system of Ferguson in the system of CollegeView-Smith, because doing so would provide a sophisticated fee system without the use of specialized programming (see Ferguson, column 3, lines 56-61).

28. CollegeView teaches the above, yet fails to teach wherein the charging unit charges the educational organization during the new registration, the charging unit charges the educational organization based on the volume of data in the electronic leaflet.

Ferguson teaches charging for updating the contents of a multimedia document and creating a document by volume of data in the document (Ferguson, column 29, line 34 to column 30, line 10; column 31, lines 13-17; column 31, line 60 to column 32, line 5; column 32, lines 15-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined CollegeView-Smith and Ferguson to provide the charging system of Ferguson in the system of CollegeView-Smith, because doing so would provide a sophisticated fee system without the use of specialized programming (see Ferguson, column 3, lines 56-61).

Conclusion

29. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

Art Unit: 2141


the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Taylor whose telephone number is (571) 272-3889. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 5:30pm, with alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3718.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nicholas Taylor
Examiner
Art Unit 2141


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER